

LEARNING FORWARD FOUNDATION

Educate, Innovate, Transform Educator Professional Learning

The Learning Forward Foundation (LFF) supports the development of educators' capacity to improve student learning through innovation and improvement that transforms professional learning, framed by the evidence-based characteristics and practices of the Learning Forward Standards.



CELEBRATIONS

- Increased fundraising to award five Academy scholarships for 2022, two more than 2020.
- Supported awardee's learning journey with individual and small group reflective Touchpoint conversations, adapted to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Strengthened the Board governance by revising the Board manual to create stronger connections and alignment across and within committees and roles.
- Applied an equity lens to the Foundation's scholarship and grant applications.
- Developed a theory of action to guide the infusion of equity into LFF's policies, procedures, and practices.
- Designed and delivered an introductory session for the LF Affiliate Equity in Action professional learning initiative.
- Enhanced LFF's relationships between the LFF Board and Learning Forward's staff, Board of Trustees, the Academy, and the Affiliates.

2021 Reflections from the LFF Chair

Looking back on 2021, we continued to adapt, connect, and thrive as a Foundation. As predicted one year earlier, in 2021, we:

- amplified our fundraising efforts to increase the number of scholarships and grants awarded,
- deepened our infrastructure through clarifying governance procedures,
- stayed connected through monthly meetings structures,
- strengthened our Learning Forward partnership with the Academy and Affiliates, and
- engaged in deep equity work aligned with Learning Forward's revised Standards.

Professional Learning with Impact

Learning Forward (LF) shows you how to plan, implement, and measure high quality professional learning so you and your team can achieve success with your system, your school, and your students. The Learning Forward Academy is a key lever to accomplish LF's mission. The Learning Forward Foundation investment and follow-up support, in tandem with the Academy experience, develops powerful leaders who value professional learning that impacts systems, educators, and students.

As our awardees build capacity as learning leaders - and of the systems, colleagues, and students in their care - the impact of the Academy and Learning Forward Foundation's support is best captured in their own words.

"In this experience (the Academy) you learn so much more than just your problem of practice. I really do feel like I am forever changed . . . For the first time in my six years in this specific role, my campus is in a continuous cycle of improvement for six cycles and that's never happened. I feel like that's a huge testament to what I've learned (in the Academy).

Ashley White, 2019 Awardee

"I know we are in a pandemic...but we still have to do right by our kids and our kids still have to learn. I'm grateful for my leadership team. Even last year, we focused on what we could do with what we had to do. And so, even within the pandemic I saw a lot of growth."

Noline Martin, 2020 Awardee

"In terms of learning communities and continuous improvement. I've been continuing to meet with this group over and over. We've been able to deepen the conversation every time. I've really appreciated our time together because when you meet with people just once or twice, you don't have that relationship where people are willing to take risks, be vulnerable and share what's happening in their classroom and what they're learning and seeing."

Constance Easton, 2020 Awardee

"I think the language has definitely shifted from professional development to professional learning. Our offices are really intentional about that. . . people are just really excited that someone is taking the time to invest in them, in their roles, and really valuing them and what they do for students. This is helping our most vulnerable population of students get high quality staff."

Nancy Rouston, 2019 Awardee

"I really think the standards helped me put equity and inclusion squarely on my radar. It created a sense of urgency in a way it hadn't prior."

Natasha Grey, 2020 Awardee

2021 Learning Forward Foundation Dale Hair Affiliate Grant Recipients

Dale Hair Affiliate Grant

The Dale Hair Affiliate grant is a one year opportunity to assist Learning Forward affiliate(s) in need of rebuilding, reorganizing, or generating a stronger organization.

"What does getting an affiliate grant mean? It means that LF validates their struggles to launch a brand new affiliate from the ground up or to rejuvenate one that's been inactive for a while. It is that boost they need to get the momentum started...The way they created a culture of collaboration and learning matters...Never underestimate the transformational value that you as a Foundation bring to the affiliates. I know first hand that is a true statement."

Dale Hair

Grant Recipient: Learning Forward British Columbia

Project Focus:

Learning Forward B.C. has a long history of supporting professional learning in B.C. through the leadership of Board members who are fully immersed in the culture of Learning Forward. As The LF BC Board grows and works to mentor and transfer leadership to another generation, it plans to ensure that its new Board members understand the Vision, Mission and Beliefs of Learning Forward along with the role that the draft, revised Standards for Professional Learning play in planning professional learning, as well as their relationship to the State of Educator's Professional Learning in Canada, a study that was funded by Learning Forward.

"Helping to foster engagement and growth for our membership is the practical piece. We needed strategies that would spark curiosity, initiate deep conversation, and draw new people into our circle, and build capacity from within."

April Lowe, President

Grant Recipient: Learning Forward Connecticut (LFC)

Project Focus:

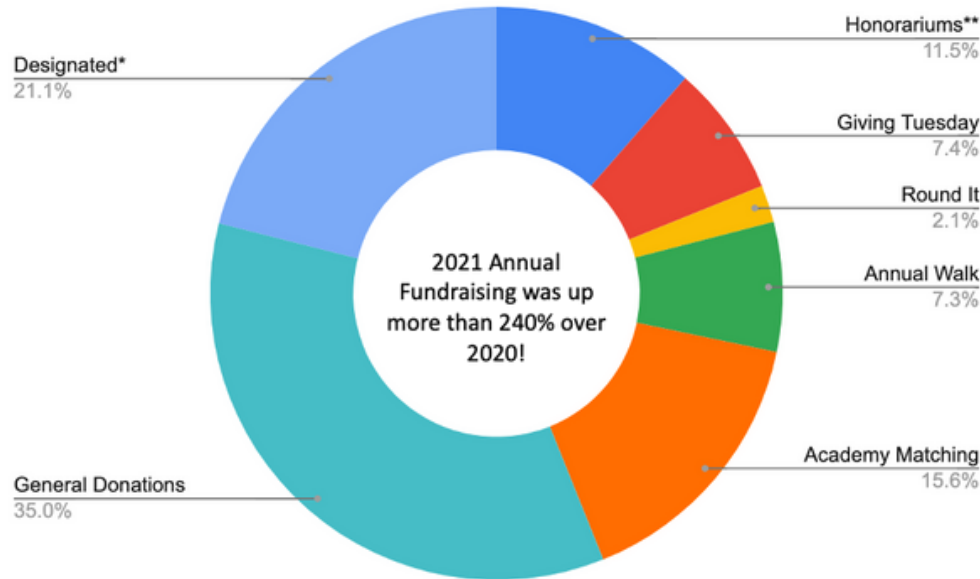
As a new affiliate, LFC's mission is to build the capacity of educational leaders to establish and sustain highly effective professional learning. It plans to increase the visibility and understanding of the organization and the Learning Forward national organization. By developing a strategic plan, LFC will identify concrete action steps with progress monitoring and metrics to bring the affiliate vision and mission to life. The grant funds will finance a strategic planning and implementation kick-off effort to support the affiliate's mission. Strategic planning is a necessary muscle to build in our leadership team for capacity, growth, and sustainability.

"We're hoping that through this grant they'll [new board members] help us build our capacity around the systems and structures and what it means to be a good affiliate and to grow our learning."

Jessica Kazigian, Co-President



2021 Learning Forward Foundation Donors Made It Possible



Each year, donors contribute to three designated* scholarships and grants

Dale Hair Grant

Stephanie Hirsh Scholarship & Grant

Patsy Hochman Scholarship & Grant

Every year at the LF Annual Conference some presenters donate their honorariums** to the LFF

"LFF is an amazing organization. We know the value of leadership. Leaders make a difference. Leaders are game changers. The academy is a game changer. You can't put a price tag on the experiences and the preparation received by the Academy members. It is important to give back. It's important to increase your habit to donate back so others can follow in the same footsteps."

Vaughn Gross, Donor



Fundraising for Innovation and Improvement in Education

The Learning Forward Foundation, through the generous donations of its supporters, has awarded more than **77 scholarships and grants** across **27 states and 3 countries** since 2008.

For more information about the Learning Forward Foundation or how you can support the professional learning of educators, visit www.foundation.learningforward.org.